

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8878

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

JCS PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 3882

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: GOG DENIES U.S. MILITARY BASES TO BE TRANSFERRED TO CRETE

RER: ATHENS3645

1. IN WAKE OF RECENT RUMORS AND PRESS SPECULATION (REFTEL) ALLEGING THAT SOME U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL AND/OR GREEK EMPLOYEES AT AMERICAN BASES IN THE ATTICA AREA WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO CRETE, A NUMBER OF CRETAN ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSED PROTESTS LAST WEEK TO GOG VOICING OPPOSITION TO SUCH A PURPORTED TRANSFER. MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ISSUED STATEMENT ON MAY 24 DENYING THESE REPORTS.

2. THE STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS: "FOLLOWING THE PROTESTS VOICED BY VARIOUS CRETAN ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST THE TRANSFER OF U.S. MILITARY BASES TO CRETE, IT IS HEREBY CATEGORICALLY STATED THAT THIS ISSUE WAS NEVER RAISED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTRY EXPRESSES ITS SURPRISE AT THE VOICING OF THESE

TOTALLY UNFOUNDED PROTESTS. IT IS POINTED OUT THAT THE MAINTENANCE, THE RESTRICTION AND THE FINAL FORM OF THESE BASES IS A SUBJECT EXAMINED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST."

3. BOTH GREEK-LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ATHENS NEWSPAPERS CARRIED DEFENSE MINISTRY STATEMENT IN EDITIONS OF MAY 25/ MAY 26. AS NOTED REFTEL (PARA 4) EMBASSY SPOKESMAN HAD PREVIOUSLY DENIED THERE ANY TRUTH TO REPORTS OF TRANSFER OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL TO CRETE.
KUBISCH

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